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Docket No.: 614.1921

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Tadao NAKAZAWA, et al.

Serial No. 09/248,103

Group Art Unit: 2633

Filed: February 11, 1999

Examiner: BELLO, A.

For: ACOUSTO-OPTICAL TUNABLE FILTERS CASCADED TOGETHER **RECEIVED**

RESPONSE

JUN 20 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on June 18, 2002.

The following remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-89 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10-15, 18-22, 38, 42, 47, 52-59, 62-68 AND 78-79 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HARTMANN (USP 3,775,761)

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 10, relates to an apparatus comprising first and second "optical" filters which filter "light."

Various of the claims specifically recite an acousto-optical tunable filter (AOTF). See, for example, claim 18. An AOTF an "optical" filter which filters "light."

The Examiner asserts that Hartmann discloses optical filters filtering light. For example, the Examiner asserts that reference numeral 56 in FIG. 9 of Hartman is an optical filter filtering an input light.